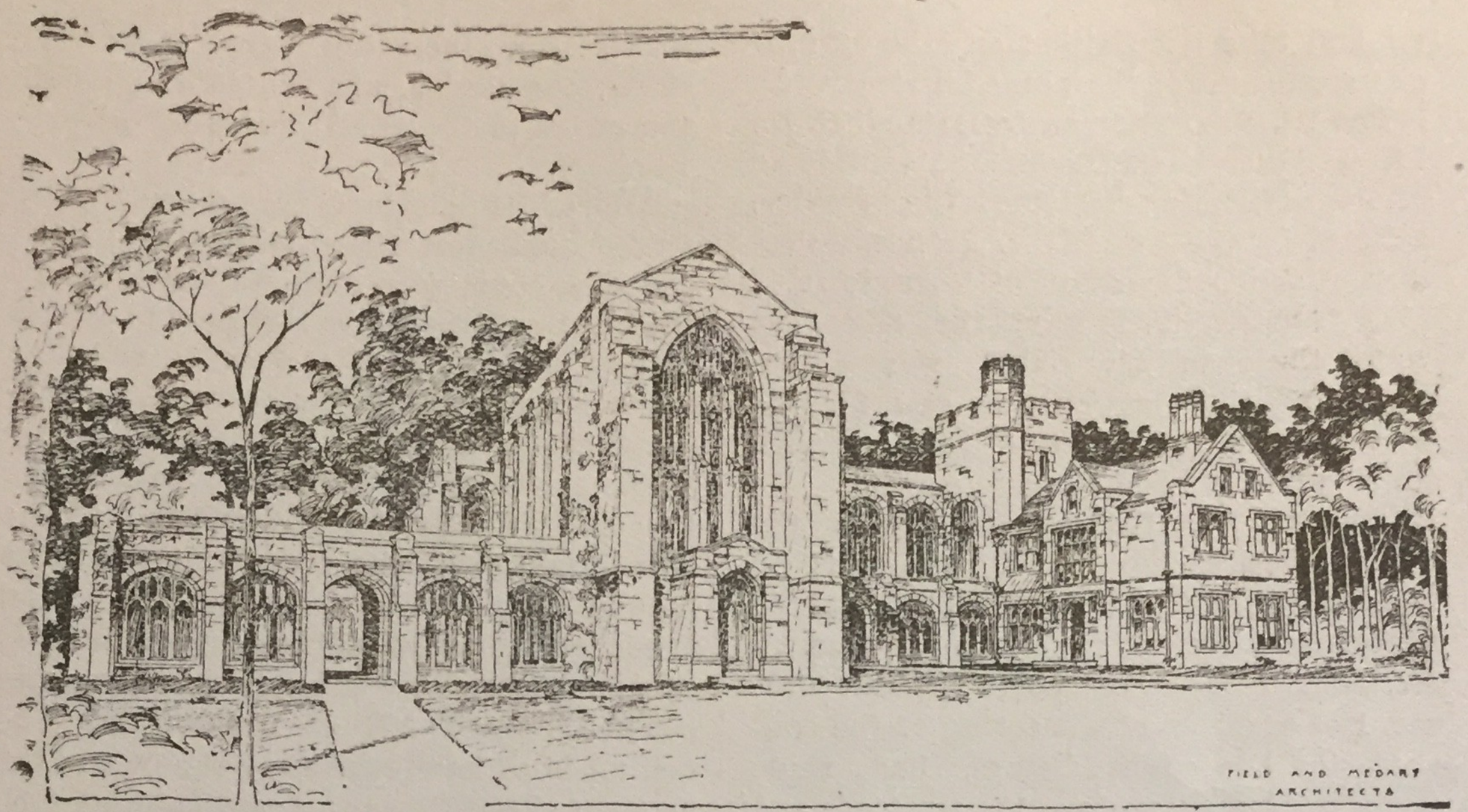
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A MONTHLY RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, Editor and Publisher. The Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge.

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VOL. VI. AUGUST 15, 1913 NO. 5

The Dedication of the New York Bay.

No fairer day ever dawned upon the hills of Valley Forge than that which was chosen by the Colonial Dames of America for the dedication of the New York Bay in the Cloister of the Colonies. No more distinguished guests ever assembled to honor the heroes of Valley Forge than those which came at the invitation of the hostesses of June 3, 1913.

The pulpit had been draped with an American flag, and this the guests faced as they sat in the grove to the west of the Cloister. Close by were the hut holes where once stood the huts of the soldiers of General Varnum's Brigade. A gentle breeze murmured through the tree tops and the song of birds gave joy to all the woodland. Then in the distance was heard the united music of the choristers and the musicians, the "Amen" to the Bishop's prayer. Then came the stirring words and music of the church's marching song, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." The vested choristers and musicians, with the clergy, gave the final touch to a scene which will linger a blessed memory to those who waited and watched for the long procession to wind through the Clois-

ter and take its position on the greensward in front of the beautiful structure.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Garland, D. D., LL. D., Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. G. W. Barnes, Secretary of the Convocation of Norristown.

As "America" was sung the flag that veiled the open air pulpit was drawn aside and the congregation saw for the first time the full beauty of the Bay, with its rich tracery and delicate carving.

The Rev. W. Herbert Burk was the appointed preacher, but Bishop Garland announced that on account of a sudden illness he would be unable to be present. Mr. Burk had worked up to the last minute, had presided at a meeting of the congregation the night before, had made every arrangement for the service, and then suffered a nervous collapse.

Bishop Garland took the occasion to make a strong appeal for the $30,000 required to complete the chapel, and told of the work already accomplished. He pointed out the appropriateness of the memorial, and spoke of its significance for this and future generations. The men of Valley Forge should be commemorated, but so should Martha Washington and those other noble women who shared the privations and trials of this camp, or at home bore the burden of its maintenance, doing double duty. On a previous occasion he had suggested the erection of the Martha Washington Rectory, and he spoke of it again because it ought to be built to be the center of those womanly ministrations to the members of this parish and to the strangers from far and wide that would pass on from generation to generation the spirit of the women who added to the glory of Valley Forge.

The Bishop's address, which was entirely impromptu, was marked by deep earnestness and real patriotism and was listened to with the keenest interest.

Miss Mary M. Hibbs had charge of the music at the dedication, and several members of the choir of All Saints' Church, Norristown, including Mr. Harry E. Kratz, the leader, augmented the choir and added to the effectiveness of the service.

Before the guests departed they were served with refreshments in the parish house, a courtesy which was greatly appreciated. Miss Hibbs had charge of this part of the day's entertainment and was ably assisted by other members of the parish.

The New York Bay is the seventh in the "Cloister of the Colonies," and is also the most beautiful. The structural stone is Holmesburg granite, and the tracery and other cut stones is Indiana limestone. The seal of the Colony is cast in bronze and set in the floor of Knoxville marble. The ceiling is of hand-carved oak, with the arms of the state carved and colored. The open air pulpit is a novel and striking feature of the Bay, and will be of great value. Dean Burk's idea is to hold services in the grove at specified times through the summer, in the belief that they will attract many visitors to Valley Forge. Unfortunately the Chapel owns only a small part of the grove and while the owner, the Hon. W. U. Hensel, very graciously allows the free use of his part of the woodland, an effort ought to be made to secure the ground perpetually for this noble use, as a change of ownership might prevent or restrict the services for which the pulpit was built. The carving on the pulpit and on the arch above it is exquisitely done, and the artist has worked in a fine spirit. The Chapel arms are carved in stone above the pulpit. They include the Washington arms, the border being used to complete the national colors, and the gunstones representing the encampment, the whole signifying Washington in camp.

On the eastern side of the Bay there is an open archway corresponding to that which opens into the pulpit. This leads down into the garth by stone steps.

The Colonial Dames of America deserve the highest praise for this noble gift—a

gift which the verdict of all who have seen it is this: "The most beautiful object at Valley Forge."

The inscription is cut in the structural stone, but the seal of the society is cast in bronze and set in the stone. The inscription is as follows:

THE INSCRIPTION.
To the Glory of God
and
in Memory of those heroic Men
who here
Endured Great Hardships
in the War for
American Independence
this Day
is erected by
The Colonial Dames
of America
(Seal of the Society)
Colere Coloniarum Gloriam

The Bay was designed by Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., whose brother, the Rev. Henry Martyn Medary, devised the Chapel's coat of arms. The Bay was built under the personal supervision of Mr. Burk. The following were the contractors:

Cut-stone and carving, William M. Sullivan; masonry, Boyer and Evans; bronze seals, John Williams, Inc.; carved ceiling, G. Gerald Evans; marble floor, Wesley Sloan.

"The Cloister of the Colonies" as it now stands contains the following Bays:

New Jersey, presented by Miss Sarah R. Chew, 1905.

Pennsylvania, presented by Mr. T. Broom Belfield, 1906.

Virginia, presented by Mr. George Clifford Thomas, 1907.

Maryland, presented by Mr. James Evans Mitchell, 1908.

Massachusetts, presented by The Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1909.

Delaware, presented for the Delaware Society, Sons of the American Revolution, by Mr. George A. Elliott, President of the Society, 1912.

New York, presented by The Colonial Dames of America, 1913.

The six states which are not represented in the Cloister of the Colonies are New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The Littell Commission.

The Rev. Dr. Littell in answer to the criticism of Mr. Jenkins, writes that the document under discussion was found among family papers which had been stored for at least forty years. Dr. Littell is a historian and has recently published an admirable pamphlet on "Washington the Christian." In the preparation of this he has made careful researches, and we may be sure he will do his utmost to trace the history of the commission.

Mr. Chris. Himes has added to our collection the following American coins, found by him below Port Kennedy: Silver, 50 cts., 1829; copper, New Jersey penny; half-cent, 1800.

The Sunday school picnics will be held this month. The Chapel and King-of-Prussia Sunday schools will hold theirs on Thursday, Aug. 21st, and Trinity Sunday school will hold its on Saturday, the 23d. Both picnics will be in the Chapel grove, and a part of the plasure of the day will be the drive over the boulevards.

The Valley Forge Trolley.

Work on the piers for the bridge across Valley Creek is progressing, and it will not be long before the cars of the Phoenixville, Valley Forge and Strafford Railway will be able to cross the creek. The new bridge is between the dam and the road. It is to be hoped that the company will be able to push forward its work so as to connect with the Philadelphia and Western at Bridgeport.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

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Mr. Edward H. Binns, Rector's Warden, Pittsburgh, Pa.

VESTRYMEN.

Mr. Edward H. Binns, Mr. Thomas H. Dobson, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Mr. Nathan B. Hughes, Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Clayland Stephens Walker, Mr. Charles Wells Walker.

Sundays.

10.45 A. M. Service and Sermon.
2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Holy Communion, First Sunday.
The Parish House, King-of-Prussia:
9 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.
7.30 P. M. Service and Sermon.
Saints' Days, 9.30 A. M. Holy Communion.

Calendar.

AUGUST.

16. Lawn Fete on lawn of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Munshower for Trinity Mission.
17. Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity.
20. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class, Gulph Mills.
21. Picnic of the Washington Memorial Sunday schools.
23. Picnic of Trinity Mission.
24. St. Bartholomew.
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.
28. 8 p. m. Teacher Training Class, Gulph Mills.
31. Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity.

SEPTEMBER.

1. 8 p. m. Vestry meeting.
3. 2.30 p. m. Guild meeting.
4. 8 p. m. Confirmation Lecture, Gulph Mills.
5. 2.30 p. m. Confirmation Lecture.
7. Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.
11. 8 p. m. Confirmation Lecture, Gulph Mills.
12. 2.30 p. m. Confirmation Lecture.
14. Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.

MARRIAGES.

June 28. Floyd E. Kerr and Estella Moore.

BURIALS.

July 8. Addison R. Wright.

TRINITY MISSION.

BAPTISMS.

July 27. Norman Lamar Miller.

History of Valley Forge.

BY HENRY WOODMAN.

Norristown Herald and Free Press, Sept. 11, 1850.

LETTER XVIII.

The lines of the encampment did not extend to the westward of the Valley Forge a great distance—not exceeding a mile; as little danger was felt of an attack from that quarter. At the house of a person named Frederick Geerheart, near the western line, a great depository or provision store for the use of the army, was established. My father, during most of the campaign, had the charge or superintendence of it. Similar ones may have been established in other places, but I have no recollection of ever hearing of any of them particularly designated. It was in depositories of this kind, that the provisions for the use of the army, whenever, as was seldom the case, more than sufficient for the immediate use of the army, were placed, to be delivered out as necessity required in rations to the troops for their support.

The whole of the country embraced in the lines of the encampment, on both

sides of the Valley Creek, and some portion of country lying in the Great Valley, on the eastern side of the front hill, at the time of the army, was either a dense forest of heavy timber, or highly cultivated farms as regards the state of agriculture in that day, an extensive business in the manufacturing of bar iron and flour for exportation had been carried on at Valley Forge, and that portion of the country lying in the Great Valley, being of a highly productive nature, owned by Thomas Waters, Abijah Stephans, Benjamin Jones, Jacob Walker, John Beaver, and Joseph Walker, in Chester county, and Mordcai Moore and John Moore, in Montgomery county, teemed with the flocks and herds, and produced abundantly of the real necessaries of life, which were the chief objects of agriculture of that day; the buildings and improvements upon them, good, substantial and commodious, for that early day, when luxuries and false show and splendor had not usurped the place of real comfort and convenience. But upon their departure, a far different appearance in the face of the country presented itself. The stately forests, consisting of the venerable oak, the majestic hickory and numerous other trees, beautiful, young and thrifty, were promiscuously cut down, the fences used for the enclosures taken away for fuel, or, as before noticed, used in the construction of huts, or forming of pickets. The flocks and herds lately so abundant upon them, all taken for the use of the army. At the Valley Forge, the sound of the hammer was no longer heard in manufacturing iron, the naked walls of buildings lately used for the purpose, were all that remained to remind observers of the business lately conducted there. It is true, all the buildings on the property of other persons in the vicinity of the encampment, were not destroyed. The enemy and our own troops had not burned or in no other way destroyed any of them, but the people had been, in consequence of the peculiar situation in which they had been placed, and tried state of the army, had been deprived of almost all the necessaries of life in addition to their lands being thus laid waste. So that the country then presented nothing but the picture of wasting and destruction. I cannot of course remember that period of time, but while writing these things, my mind is carried back in retrospection to the times alluded to; they bring afresh to my memory, what I have so often heard repeated, concerning them, that I sometimes almost fancy I lived in that day, and that I have actually beheld the scenes I have endeavored to present to my readers.

In my next I shall have some further allusions to the subject. The remainder of this, I wish to devote to some matters that occurred near the close of the campaign, and particularly a circumstance that occured about that time, that I have never seen any account of, that shows that the movements of the Continental army were either very closely and secretly noticed, or that the fidelity of some of the superior officers was not to be fully trusted to. I have often heard my father relate the circumstance, and as he belonged to the army, and was well acquainted with all its movements—I publish it, probably for the first time, upon that authenticity, and endeavor to give it as nearly as possible, as I have heard it related by him. In giving this account, it will be necessary to take notice of the British army, under the command of General Howe. After the battle of Germantown, and the passage of their fleet up the Delaware to Philadelphia, they were left in the absolute possession of the city, where they entered in triumph to take up their winter quarters, enjoying every luxury and abundance, even to excess, as their sovereign, whose service they were engaged, furnished them liberally with the means of gratifying the vain mind. While Washington and his army were at Valley Forge, suffering all the accumulated miseries, hardships and privations that have been mentioned, many of them hardly sheltered from the inclement storms, by the miserable huts they dwelt in, the

enemy were dwelling secure in their comfortable houses, and though frequently feeling inconvenience for the want of fuel, yet they were well fed and well clothed, and if not marrying and giving in marriage, they were eating and drinking, rioting and feasting, enjoying their parties of pleasure, attending balls and visiting theatres and various other amusements. And to crown the whole, towards the close of the campaign, when General Howe was tbout to leave the country and return to England, the officers resolved to honor him by a splendid pageantry or fete called the Meschianza, for a more full description of which my readers are referred to in Watson's Annals of Philadelphia, and Sherman Day's Historical Researches of Pennsylvania, under the head of Philadelphia, where they will find a very graphic description given to it. (I may here notice that I saw about two years ago in the possession of John F. Watson, of Germantown, one of the original cards of invitation to this splendid fete.)

Through their long and uninterrupted course of selfish pleasure, thinking themselves secure from danger, they had become rather careless about guarding their outposts from surprise. Washington thinking this a very suitable time to make an attack upon some of those stationed near the Wissahickon, between Germantown and the Schuylkill, hoping by a manoeuvre of this kind to partially weaken some of their forces and to secure some of their stores, arms, ammunition and artillery. In order that the utmost secrecy might be observed, he called a council of officers, at 12 o'clock at night, at headquarters. Of whom this council consisted, I have never fully understood, but Generals Lee and Knox, and Col. Hamilton, together with a few others constituted it. The result of the conference was that they agreed that on the next dav, a detachment of the army was to march from the encampment across the river Schuylkill at Matson's Ford, opposite Conshohocken, and fall upon the outposts early in the morning of the second day after the consultation. The plan being thus arranged, it was supposed to be only known to the officers who were present at the conference, and upon whom the utmost secrecy was enjoined until the commencement of the march. Preparations were made to carry it into effect, but though they had every reason to believe their movements were known only to the aforesaid officers who were charged with the execution of it, yet Washington, with that caution that always characterized him, was unwilling to allow the main body to proceed, without sending in advance a small body of men to reconnoitre the country, and if possible to discover whether any of the enemy were lying in ambush, or on their way to meet them. Their party upon arriving at an eminence, upon the Gulf road near the house of John Hughes, from which place there is a distinct view of Barren Hill, discovered a body of the British army marching out to meet them, and it ascertained they lay in ambush near the Schuylkill, in order that when our troops were crossing the river, which they meant to wade, it not being more than three feet deep, attack them at the time, when owing to the disadvantage in which they would be placed, they would have been easily subdued. It was evident that the enemy had notice of their intended movement, but in what way it was conveyed, has never, and in all probability never will be known. Whether some person like Lydia Darrah, was listening to the officers while in secret conclave, and conveyed the intelligence, or whether some of the officers proved treacherous, and being in a league with some of the disaffected tories of that day, some of whom were ready through the love of British gold to act as messengers, and thus convey intelligence to the enemy, must always be a matter of conjecture. I could give my father's opinion on the subject, but think best to forbear for the present.

The prudence and precaution of Washington, frustrated their object. The American army after commencing their

march received the information from the body of men sent in advance, and they all returned to camp.

I shall now take leave of the transactions of the army at the encampment, and in my next give an acount of their departure.

The New Jersey Monument.

The hills of Valley Forge echoed a salute of 13 guns yesterday afternoon, when Miss Eleanor Wilson, daughter of the President, drew aside a drapery of American flag, revealing a stately granite shaft on the site occupied by the New Jersey troops during the terrible winter of 1777-78. The monument was erected by the State of New Jersey.

As Miss Wilson, holding the National standard in her arms, stood before the imposing memorial, a sustained cheer from more than 3000 persons greeted her. A chorus of 25 children from St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, Camden, sang "Hail, New Jersey," accompanied by the music of a military band. Soldiers of the 3d Regiment, Organized Militia of New Jersey, and a division of the State Naval Reserves stood at attention. The salute was fired by Battery B, of the New Jersey Artillery.

Those taking part in the ceremonies were conveyed to Valley Forge on special trains, leaving Philadelphia at 1 p. m. They assembled at Washington's Headquarters near the station and marched to the monument. Thousands of visitors followed in automobiles. The procession included the 3d New Jersey Infantry and a battalion of soldiers of the 3d Regiment, the Naval Reserves, members of the Valley Forge Park Commission, State officials and civic organizations.

Governor James F. Fielder, of New Jersey, and ex-Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, accompanied Miss Wilson in an automobile. Mr. Pennypacker represented Governor Tener.

The battery fired a salute in honor of the Governor. The Rev. J. W. Riddle, of Valley Forge, offered an invocation. John H. Fort, chairman of the commission in charge of the erection of the monument, acted as master of ceremonies. He made the speech of presentation of the monument to Governor Fielder.

In accepting the memorial for the State of New Jersey Governor Fielder dwelt upon the important part taken by his State during the War of Independence, and called attention to the bravery and ability of General William Maxwell, who commanded the Jersey brigade at Valley Forge. In accepting the monument for Pennsylvania and delivering it to the Valley Forge Park Commission Mr. Pennypacker called attention to the intimate relations existing between the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

William H. Sayen, president of the Valley Forge Park Commission of Pennsylvania, made the final speech of acceptance.

Dr. W. H. S. Demarest, president of Rutgers College, delivered an oration in which he reviewed the history of the Valley Forge encampment.—The Public Ledger, June 19, 1913.

An Apology.

The Editor must make an apology for the errors in the July number. It was out on time, but it contained the following blunders:

P. 31 is the introduction to the quotation, which does not appear.

P. 32. Mrs. W. Hinckle South should be Mrs. W. Hinckle Smith.

The paragraph at the foot of the page belonged to the report of the Rector printed in the June number.

We will try to do better than this.

A Garden Party and Bazaar in aid of the Building Fund of Trinity Mission will be given on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Munshower, at Gulph Mills, on Saturday, August 16.

The Men of Valley Forge.

Allen, Amos. Amos Allen was born in 1734 and died in 1818. He was a private in Captain Solomon Strong's Company, Colonel Philip B. Bradley's Regiment, in the spring of 1775, Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777; assigned to Huntington's Brigade; wintered at Valley Forge; Battle of Monmouth; storming of Stony Point; discharged December 6, 1779. (Connecticut Men in the Revolution; certificate of Adjutant General of Connecticut.)

(Massachusetts Society of Sons of the American Revolution, 1897, p. 163.)

Two descendants are given.
Horton Sumner Allen.
Howard Bradley Allen.

—

Avery, Simeon. Simeon Avery was "born in Groton, Conn., Oct. 20, 1752; died there Aug. 1, 1796; successively Ensign, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant and Adjutant in Col. Jedediah Huntington's Regt., Conecticut Militia; participated in battles of Germantown, Monmouth and Stony Point, and wintered at Valley Forge. Two brothers were killed and one desperately wounded at the massacre of Fort Griswold. Their father, the Rev. Park Avery, was pastor of a church in Groton, and every male member of his congregation was either killed or wounded in that battle."

Descendant, Elisha Avery Packer, Packerville, Conn. Merchant. Born in Stonington, Conn., July 23, 1823. Son of Daniel Packer and Mary Avery; grandson of Simeon Avery and Lucy Swan; great-grandson of Park Avery and Mary Latham; gt. 2-grandson of Ebenezer Avery and Dorothy Park; gt. 3-grandson of James Avery and Deborah Sterling; gt. 4-grandson of James Avery (who came from England in 1630 with Gov. Winthrop) and Joanna Greenslade." (Empire State Society, S. A. R., Register for 1899, pp. 368, 257.)

Miss Lilla S. Pechin.

On the 29th of July a large number of the friends of Miss Lilla S. Pechin paid their last tribute to one whose life was a continuous blessing and whose death was the close of such service as is rarely rendered to God and man. Had she lived a few more months she would have completed fifty years of Bible class teaching. In that period she taught hundreds of men and women, and her influence is felt to-day in many a life.

Miss Pechin was a devoted friend of the Washington Memorial Chapel and its Rctor, and with her sister gave the Pechin Pew. To the Museum she gave the very valuable collection of American stamps which she had spent years in collecting. This collection, while listed at the Museum, was in her possession at the time of her death, as Mr. Burk asked her to care for it until there was a proper place for its exhibition.

Trial Subscriptions.

For ten cents the Chronicle will be sent to new subscribers for six months. This generous offer is made to extend the usefulness of the paper as well as to increase its revenue. Surely you know of some who would enjoy the Chronicle. Send stamps or coin to the publisher.

The Cloister of the Colonies.

Connecticut is to have the next Cloister Bay. A concerted effort is to be made by the patriotic societies of the State to raise the $2,000 required for this handsome memorial. It is remarkable that Rhode Island has not shown more interest. But the action of Connecticut may arouse its neighbor.

Plans are now being considered to make the garth, or space enclosed by the Cloister, the most beautiful spot at Valley Forge. No expense is to be spared to attain this end, and architects and artists are working toward the realization of the great ideal of a devoted friend of the Chapel.